

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities

2019 Annual Report

Fiscal Year: February 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020

Being Church in a Changing World

For over 100 years, Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities has been an ever dying, ever rising ministry on the campus of the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

Historically, our annual report has been a chance to report on the previous year, to celebrate successes and say thank you to our donors for your abundant support. As I write this, 2019 feels very, very far away. We are now officially in the midst of a global pandemic, a national recession, and a time of reckoning with racial injustice that has been with us for centuries. Mental illness is skyrocketing, political institutions are being interrogated, and we are inching our way out of our homes, while keeping 6 feet between us.

And, we are still the church, God is still God, and we are being made new as we speak. I can feel it. The students can feel it. Our community can feel it. The Spirit is alive, moving in us, and calling us forth with creativity and joy, even (or perhaps especially) in the midst of great turmoil. I am terrified and energized all at the same time. I am so grateful for this call, in this place, and with these people.

I began my call as the ELCA campus pastor at the University of Minnesota on July 24, 2010. **In many ways, so much has changed, and so much remains the same.**

Through these 10 years, I have consistently been humbled by the broad network of support that this ministry is



blessed with – people who believe that there should be a vibrant, inclusive, curiosity driven faith community in the midst of 55,000 young adults. Synods, congregations, alumni, parents, community supporters, current students – many of you give sacrificially of your time, money, and support for young adults. We are so grateful. I am so grateful.

It is also true that through these 10 years, we have always had to “be the church” in the world. We have always been a changing network of people set free by God’s love to love our neighbor, united in the Spirit and by our commitment to curiosity, authenticity and community as expressions of the warmth and welcome we find in Christ. Each year, we gather a new community, and consider together how we might grow in our faith as we love and serve and learn from our neighbor.

The year 2019 was no exception to that as we expanded our capacity to reach out to new students through increased staffing, an updated website and deepening training with our servant leaders. We saw the fruits of that as students arrived, hungry for the kind of

intentional, deep engagement this community models in their spiritual life, and the way that shapes our life together. And now, in this summer of 2020, our ministry with students continues. Together, we are creatively re-imagining our ministry, and the ways our core values and mission might take shape in a world that has cracked open. We expect that we will continue to meet in small groups, serve our neighbor (this time with masks!), and grow in our faith through prayer, storytelling, and worship (likely online).

Your generosity has moved us from a place of surviving into a place of thriving. What a gift! Your generosity has freed us to experiment with new ways of being church, and share our learnings with the broader church, and we are now taking these lessons with us as we engage imaginatively, with 2020 and beyond. We are so grateful. Thank you.

OUR MISSION

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities is a faith community rooted in word and sacrament. LCM-TC welcomes, gathers, equips, and sends students, trusting that through these young people, the Spirit is active in transforming the campus and the world.

A BIG THANK YOU!

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Congregational Partners on Campus

We celebrate the unique relationship we share with University Lutheran Church of Hope and Grace University Lutheran Church and St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church. Whether offering in kind support, intergenerational mentorship, or simply sharing space, we really are the church together on campus.



Living Faithfully in a Changing World: Student Perspective

College life can be pretty chaotic. Sometimes this chaos is good or helpful and other times it seems I'll never be sure of myself, or that I'll always feel alone in my journey. I'm one of many young adults that struggles with mental health, and like many of my peers, I often question my major choice and future career path. I will be a senior in the fall, and as I look back on my time here at University, I'm grateful that LCM has been present in my experience with loss, depression, friendship, and everything in between. It is so life-giving and valuable to have a consistent community at this time in our lives. **LCM is a community that calls young adults to question things, to have hard conversations, to speak out against racism, to do the next right thing, and to do the thing you're most afraid of doing. It is a community that invites us to show up on an average Wednesday to have coffee, and at the same time, invites us to be world changers.**

LCM is a place where students feel valued and a place where young adults come together to question and pray. LCM is preparing us to be compassionate, to be thought leaders, and to go forth with good courage. I believe it's important for the church and for the world to invest in the next generation. At LCM we are future politicians, farmers, scientists, professors, lawyers and dentists. I hope that the compassion, thoughtfulness and courage we practice in this community will carry over into our vocations, our future communities, churches and the world.

- Grace Taylor, current student

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Make a donation | Assemble mailings | Provide Soup on Tuesdays | Host a house party to raise funds for LCM-TC | Apply for a Thrivent Action Grant | Pray for Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities | We invite you to contact us for more information: info@umnlutheran.org

VISION 2020: The Journey

In 2017, the LCM-TC board of directors, staff, and student leaders set out to create a three-year strategic plan to guide our work. In this plan, LCM-TC sought to “deepen our roots” in four ways, in order to cultivate a ministry for generations to come. By the year 2020, we envisioned a vital and faithful campus ministry that included:

1. Increased program staff to expand our outreach efforts, and provide space to deepen student faith formation and leadership development,
2. Stronger administrative effectiveness and financial stability in support of our ministry,
3. Increased awareness of God’s work on campus through more effective communications,
4. Expanded building space to create a more welcoming and flexible home for students.

Over the last three years we have stretched and grown in ways that were both imagined and in ways we never imagined. We’ve learned the importance of a solid strategic plan which keeps us on track to achieve our priorities and deepen our roots on campus while giving us the freedom and flexibility to respond to changing needs.

We celebrate the following milestones:

1. LCM-TC hired our first Program Associate to shape our outreach efforts on campus and build our programming capacity. Through this position, we’re able to support our servant leaders in their outreach work, reach more students through partnerships and outreach activities, and when students show up in our midst, welcome them with greater intention and care.
2. LCM-TC has strengthened our infrastructure by utilizing the expertise on our Executive Committee to streamline administrative systems and procedures. We expanded our donor base each year by ten percent and are particularly proud to have a robust group of donors that give monthly. This gives us ongoing stability so that we may respond to new opportunities as they arise. We also started the LCM-TC Endowment Fund seeded by Dr. Donald H. Nelson. He has a vested interest in creating a sustainable future for LCM-TC and invites others to join him with their own gift to the LCM-TC Endowment Fund.
3. Improved our communications work by launching a new website, hiring staff with social media and marketing experience, and increasing the number of churches participating in LCM Sunday (where congregations welcome student preachers into their pulpits) from four to nine.
4. LCM-TC continues to work with the U of M, the city of Minneapolis, and Grace University Lutheran Church to



meaningful expression of the partnership between Grace and LCM-TC, and our collective commitment to be “On the Campus for Good.”

As we look into the future, we are so grateful to our board, staff, synods, congregational partners and donors for their expertise, hard work, and financial support. You all make LCM-TC a thriving ministry on the campus of the University of Minnesota.

I love LCM because of how affirming and loving it is. LCM emphasizes Jesus’ love for every one of us unconditionally, no matter who we are, who we love, or how many times we’ve messed up. LCM focuses on the grace, the love, the forgiveness, and the purpose that comes from a relationship with Christ. Every time I attend LCM worship/small groups, I feel so full of love and compassion. I always leave wanting more. I think God is calling LCM to continue to grow by spreading the word around campus that there is a place for every single one of us at LCM no matter our differences. There is always more than enough love to go around.

– Gwen W., current student

OUR VALUES

As a grace filled, Christ-centered community, LCM-TC values and seeks to embody curiosity, hospitality, integrity, justice, and service.



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Living Faithfully in a Changing World: Alumna Perspective

Lutheran Campus Ministry was the first place I got to really explore my faith as an adult, out on my own. We were always encouraged to be curious, ask questions, and wrestle with the tough stuff. Critical thinking abounds at LCM. I was challenged to examine what I believed, and what that looked like when applied to the here and now. That is how LCM most powerfully impacted my life-by showing me what faith in action looks like.

Sometimes it looked like sharing a meal with members of the Muslim Students Association and having intentional conversations to get to know one another better. Other times it looked like a bunch of students cleaning up along the river because we are all responsible for being stewards of the earth. To me, living the gospel means always seeing Jesus in the stranger, and remembering that every person is a child of God. It means saying 'all are welcome' and then doing the work to make sure everyone actually feels welcome. It means offering grace and love in abundance, always.

I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to figure out what my faith meant to me, and how I was going to take it with me into the world. That in itself is a large reason I believe it is also important to the church. LCM is a place for students to feel voluntarily and deeply rooted in a faith community...that is how the church continues. My hope for LCM, is that it continues to be a place for students to explore their faith, and to figure out how they will put it into action.

Often, I think of Matthew 25:35-40. May we remember it, internalize it, live it. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Go in peace, serve the Lord. - Emily Hegland - 2013

LCM is radically countercultural, and that's why I love it. The University, though wonderful, is in a state of constant activity and pursuit for progress. It's a mentality that can quickly become toxic and overly-competitive, especially for those of us predisposed to insecurity. We're constantly told that we need to be good, to be better, and we interpret that to mean that we're not enough as we are. LCM defines itself in opposition to that mentality. People are met where they are and told they belong. - Viola E., current student

Donations to Lutheran Campus Ministry - Twin Cities - February 1, 2019- January 31, 2020

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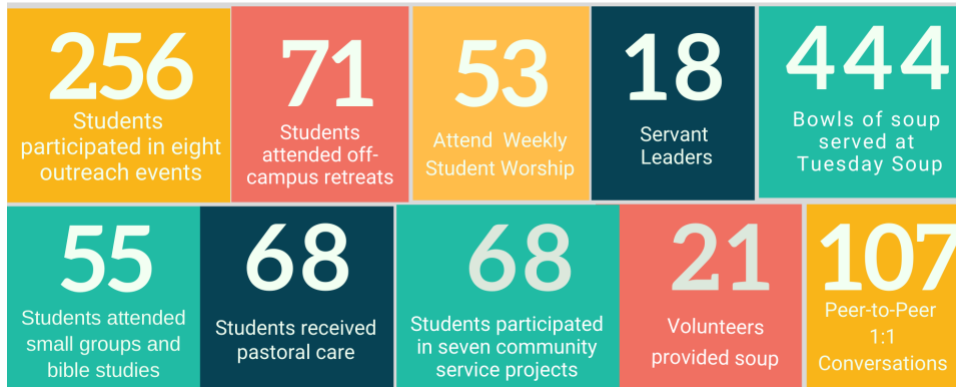
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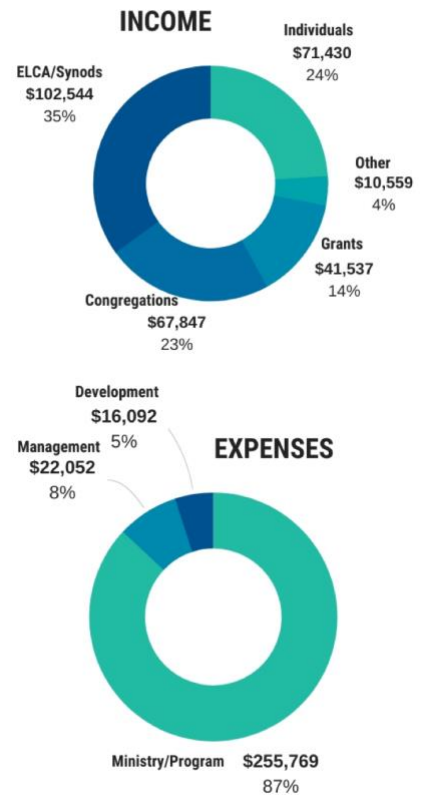
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Having a faith community, like LCM-TC does so much more for supporting my faith journey than I could do by just sitting in church on Sundays or reading the Bible on my own. I've loved the space and bountiful opportunities to ask questions and partake in discussions about whatever is on peoples' minds, and to learn that everyone still has doubts and questions. Service trips has enabled me to learn so much more about the world we live in, support the broader community, and learn what it means to show love.

— Olivia O. - current student



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